INTRODUCTION

Information in this Reference Manual expands upon the instructions/information in the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal joint application. By reviewing the Manual, Certified Application Assistants (CAA's) will be better able to help applicants understand the eligibility process and to provide the information that is necessary to screen for eligibility. Applications correctly completed can be processed more quickly by the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal eligibility staff.

Effective March 31, 2003, all application assistant trainings are terminated as part of the States Fiscal Year 2002-03 mid year budget cuts. Existing Certified Application Assistants (CAA), as well as any other interested person, can use this Training Manual as an ongoing resource for completion of the joint Healthy Families/Medi-Cal application.

Effective July 1, 2003, the <u>proposed</u> State Fiscal Year 2003-04 budget includes the elimination of the \$50 application assistant fees and the \$25 Annual Eligibility Review payment. Existing CAAs who elect to continue to provide application assistance, and any interested person, can use this Training Manual as an ongoing resource.

The Health-e-App electronic application system will continue to be available to existing CAA after June 30,2003, but no \$50 application assistant fees will be paid.

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